

Come, Worship the Lord!

October 30, 2011

If you are visiting with us, we welcome you, and hope you find your time of worship here meaningful.

Restrooms and Nursery are downstairs from the entrance. An elevator is available by the entrance that services all floors.

Connect Card and Prayer Card – Please take a moment to fill these out and place in the offering.

*Please stand as you are comfortable
UMH (United Methodist Hymnal) – hardback hymnal
FWS (Faith We Sing) – black soft cover hymnal

PRELUDE

All are invited to prepare their hearts for worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Nancy dosSantos

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** From Psalm 27

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation

People: Whom shall I fear?

Leader: The LORD is the stronghold of my life

People: Of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: O Lord God of our salvation, we worship and adore you,

People: We will sing your praises forever and ever!

* **HYMN** “Here I am to Worship” iWorship

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Pastor Gwyneth

Elementary age children may go down to Sunday School with their teachers after the children’s message.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “The Lord loves a cheerful giver!”

The weekly offering is for those who consider Merrimacport their church family. If you are our guest here today, you may give but please feel free to let the plate pass. Your presence

with us is a wonderful gift. Please place your Connect Card and Prayer Card in the offering basket.

OFFERING MUSIC

* **DOXOLOGY** “Praise God” UMH #95

* **Prayer of Dedication**

You have given us light and life, hope and joy, O Lord. Bless the gifts we bring and the ministries they enable us to carry out. O help us to truly become bearers of the light of Christ in our world. Amen.

BIRTHDAY PENNIES & PRAYERS

All are invited to share a birthday or anniversary celebration with a small donation which goes to Heifer International. Praises and concerns will then be shared from the prayer cards. Today for All Saints Sunday we also lift up saints in our lives who have gone to be with the Lord this year.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER UMH #895

HYMN “Spirit Song” UMH #347

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 5:1-7

MESSAGE “Shepherds of God’s Flock” Pastor Gwyneth
“We are the Church” 1 Peter Sermon Series, Part 4

RESPONSE “Shepherd Me O God” FWS #2058
Psalm 23 UMH #137

***HYMN** “Christ For the World We Sing” UMH #568

* **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to join us downstairs for refreshments after worship. This week’s fellowship is hosted by Nancy Bachelder.

MERRIMACPORT NEWS

Circuit Rider Newsletters are available today if you receive paper copies. Please record your email on your Connect Card if you would be willing to receive yours electronically.

Youth Band Rehearsal TODAY after worship. All youth who play an instrument are welcome to join as we begin Christmas rehearsals.

Church Open For Halloween - We will be giving out candy at the church tomorrow 5-7pm to show the love of Christ to our neighbors. We have plenty of candy now, as well helpers to hand out candy. Please spread the word to friends with kids to stop by!

Youth Group Laser Tag Sunday, November 13 from 12:30pm with pickup at the Church at 4pm. This event will be at the Laser Craze in North Andover (1600 Osgood Street; www.lasercraze.us). The cost is \$13 for 4 games - A lunch of pizza will be provided free for the kids. Rocklan Beavers has extra permission slips. **Kids ages 10+** are welcome!!! If you would be willing to drive and/or chaperone, please fill out a connect card, or contact Rocklan Beavers. Thank you!

Word of Life Superbowl Registrations Due 11/1 to Connie Haberkern.. Friday, **11/18 at 6pm** – hockey game in Manchester, NH followed by Gospel message and all-night activities from 10pm-6am ! **Youth ages 10+** are invited to attend, and some drivers will be leaving at midnight. Council voted for the church to pay half of the ticket price out of the youth fund, so the fee is now \$21/person. For questions please contact any of the youth group leaders: David & Rocklan Beaver, Nancy Hartmann or Connie Haberkern.

Staff Parish Relations Committee will be meeting **11/1 at 7:30pm**, and before Charge Conference on **11/3** at 6pm.

Charge Conference is this week, **11/3 at 7pm**. All church members are strongly encouraged to attend as we engage in conversation with our District Supt., Rev. Jan Davis and vote on important matters such as pastor's salary. Thank you to **Emily Sample** for agreeing to serve as our Conference Secretary!

W elcome!



Merrimacport United Methodist Church
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Now find us on facebook

REFLECTIONS ON THE MESSAGE 1 Peter 5:1-7

Is it easier to see yourself as sheep or shepherd?

Who are some people in your life whom you shepherd? In what ways might you become a more willing and eager shepherd?

Who are people in your life you need to allow to shepherd you?

What helps you to “cast all your anxiety on God”?

What anxieties do you need to cast on Christ our Chief Shepherd?

MERRIMACPORT NEWS (Continued)

If anyone is interested in attending the **School of Conference Congregational Development Nov 4-5** with Pastor Gwyneth, please indicate so on your Connect Card. FMI or register at www.neumc.org

Bible Studies at the Church: The **daytime Bible Study** will meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays **11/9** and **11/23** (due to Thanksgiving this date may change) at 10am. Adult Sunday School will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays **11/13** and **11/27** at 10am. All are welcome to join us!

Pot Roast Dinner is on for **Nov 12**. Many hands make for light work!

Emmaus House Mission - If you would be able to prepare a meal for this family shelter, available dates include the first Thursdays in November, December, January, February and March. The church can reimburse you for the expense if you are unable to donate the cost of the meal. Please contact Gail Mattos to sign up.

Fall Back, Spring Ahead! Daylight Savings Time Ends on **11/6**. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night!

Sunday School Planning Meeting 11/6 – All parents and teachers are invited to join us after worship to discuss how the Sunday School is going. Please join us!

Youth Group for middle and high school youth will be meeting (with dinner) on Sunday, **11/6** at **5pm**. **Please bring a friend!**

Help Plan Worship for 2012 - We are coming to that time of year when we begin to look at sermon series themes for the coming year. Pastor Gwyneth would like to open this process to the entire church. So please consider these three questions, and write ideas on your Connect Card: Is there a particular spiritual/Biblical topic that you wrestle with, or would like to know more about? Are there life issues or topics that the unchurched people you know are dealing with? Is there a specific book of the Bible, or a Biblical character that you would love to see me do a sermon series on?

MERRIMACPORT NEWS (Continued)

Stewardship 2011 - We will be leading an exciting worship series on stewardship beginning next Sunday. The topics are stewardship of God's justice and mercy, stewardship of God's love (The Great Commandment), and stewardship of God's call to make disciples (the Great Commission). We hope as a faithful steward within your church family you will be present with us during those weeks. Commitment cards can be placed in the offering any Sunday in November, but on the third Sunday, November 20, the pastor will be performing a "blessing of commitment cards" and we especially hope you can be there for that. Finance has designed new commitment cards this year, and we hope they will be helpful to you as you prayerfully discern your financial commitment. Cards will be available at church. Above all, please keep your church family in prayer that together we would be good stewards of all God's blessings.

Family Advent Study Beginning November 17! Pastor Gwyneth will be leading a weekly Advent study on Thursdays 5-7pm for families, and will be hosted at the Beavers home in Merrimac. The study called "The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton will begin November 17, and continue meeting on December 1, 8, 15 and 22. Parents and children will participate in the study together, which will include dinner, carol singing, DVD, discussion, Christmas crafts and more. Children age 8+ are invited, or younger so long as they are able to participate meaningfully. To register, please contact Pastor Gwyneth or the church office.

An adult version of The Journey may also meet – possibilities include daytime or Sunday evenings beginning the week of November 20. If you would be interested in leading and/or hosting in your home, please contact Pastor Gwyneth.

Please sign up for either study using the Connect Card in worship, or by contacting Pastor Gwyneth or the church office.

Bishops Day on the District November 19 - Bishop Pete Weaver will be with the Tri-State District at the First UMC in Portsmouth from 9:30am-Noon for worship and conversation. Childcare is provided. FMI please contact Pastor Gwyneth, and to register, please contact the district office at 978-682-7775 or tri-state@neumc.org

Earthquake Disaster Relief for Turkey - The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is in conversation with partners in Turkey, seeking to respond to emergency needs following the 7.2-magnitude earthquake there that has caused injuries, deaths, and widespread destruction. Food and medicine are most in demand after a 7.2-magnitude earthquake shook eastern Turkey on Sunday, leaving more than a thousand injured and at least 240 dead. UMCOR is in conversation with partner International Blue Crescent (IBC) and is seeking to help meet some of these and other needs, such as blankets, plastic sheets, and hygiene kits for survivors. You can support the International Disaster Response with your check or envelope marked "Turkey Advance #982450" to meet both immediate and long-term needs. Please give generously.

Newburyport News Profile - Pastor Gwyneth and her husband Jamie were interviewed last week by the Newburyport News so please keep an eye out for their profile in the next few weeks!

New Church Directory Coming Soon! A free software has been installed on our website domain called ChurchInfo, which will allow us to print updated directories anytime, as well as print off labels for the newsletter or any group we create, and even create email lists. Shirley will be entering data over the next few weeks and be inviting everyone to verify information to make sure it is correct before publishing an updated directory. Thank you for your cooperation in this project!

Church Calendar Online Check out the church calendar at www.merrimacportumc.org under the calendar tab. If you have any additions or revisions to make, please contact info@merrimacportumc.org or pastorgwyneth@merrimacportumc.org

Lay Committee on Leadership has made wonderful progress discerning leadership and other positions for the coming year. This leadership list will be voted on at Charge Conference. If you feel called to serve in a particular area, please record on the Connect Card or contact Pastor Gwyneth. Thank you!